

# PETERSON CREEK TIMBER SALE

August 20, 2007 Land Board

## **Location of Sale:**

- Anaconda Unit (SWLO) – Approximately 8 air miles southeast of Deer Lodge, Montana.
- Powell County – Section 16, T6N-R8W
- 100% Common School

## **Sale Volume & Estimated Value:**

- The estimated sale sawlog volume is 2,819 tons (454 MBF) with an estimated minimum bid value of \$54,970.00 or \$19.50/ton.
- Approximately 1,500 tons of “Other Material” (Pulp, Post/Rails) is estimated and is required to be removed. This is to reduce fuel loading by removing all dead trees and to provide for natural lodgepole pine regeneration. The estimated Other Material minimum bid value is \$2,250.00 or \$1.50/ton.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$2.62/ton for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 6.21 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

## **Sale & Harvest Treatments:**

- The sale consists of 3 harvest units totaling 88 acres.
- Over 95% of all lodgepole pine in the sale area has recently been killed by the mountain pine beetle. Therefore, all lodgepole pine meeting minimum utilization specifications is to be removed. Leave trees would consist of Douglas-fir, Engelman spruce and sub-alpine fir and would be well distributed.
- This sale contains no old growth.

## **Harvest Systems:**

- 100% Tractor

## **Road Construction:**

- The Peterson Creek Timber Sale is entirely accessible from a county road. Approximately 1.5 miles of existing road within the State section would be maintained and 0.65 miles of new road would be built. All new roads would be permanently closed upon completion of harvest activities.

## **Public Involvement:**

- Scoping letters were mailed to adjacent landowners and interested parties in January, 2007. Comments were received from MT DFWP, USFS, and Stoltze Land and Lumber. All comments were favorable.

## **Public Comments, Issues and Mitigations:**

- **West Slope Cutthroat** - Peterson Creek is known to contain genetically pure West Slope Cutthroat. Streamside management zones and equipment restriction zones have been designed to effectively buffer streams and other ephemeral drainage features. SMZ harvest would follow all applicable State Laws and ARM's.

There is one proposed stream crossing of an un-named tributary to Peterson Creek which would be crossed by a temporary bridge. DNRC SWLO Hydrologist developed site specific mitigations for the installation and use of this crossing.

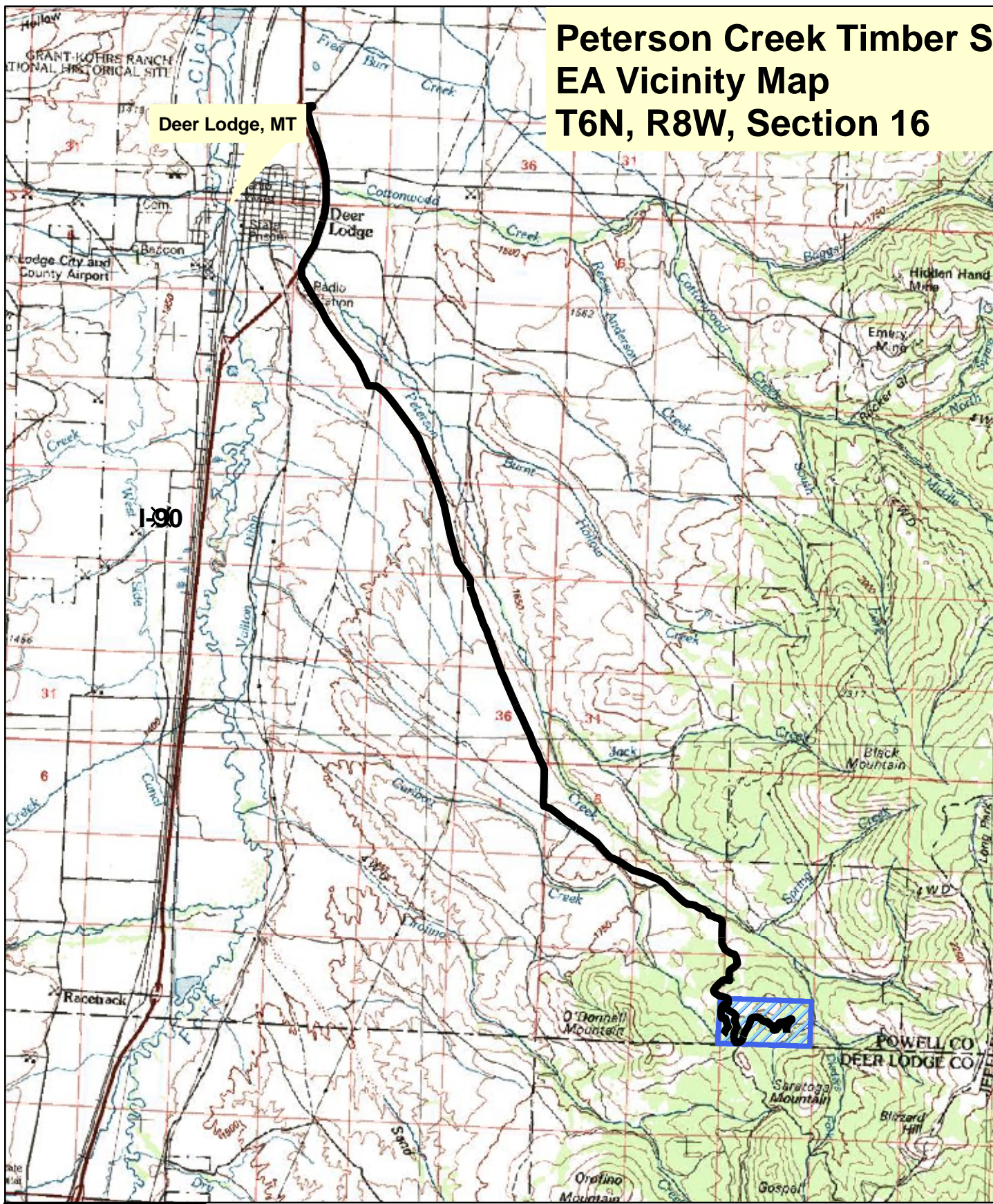
Selection of appropriate harvest and yarding systems, operating seasons, limiting equipment to suitable slopes or designated trails and appropriate ground conditions would be used to reduce the risk of soil erosion and sediment delivery to streams and ephemeral drainage features.

- **Big Game** -The project area is used by a variety of big game species, including elk, mule deer, and occasionally, antelope and moose. The proposed harvest units did provide thermal cover for elk and mule deer during the heat of the summer months. In terms of winter thermal cover, the elevation of the sale is above the local big game winter range for the area so the sale area does not provide winter thermal cover.

Additionally, due to the open roads both within the project area and on adjacent public and private lands, there is no elk security cover (Hillis et al. 1991) within the project area.

**The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Peterson Creek Timber Sale.**

Peterson Creek Timber Sale  
EA Vicinity Map  
T6N, R8W, Section 16

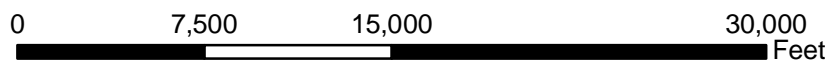


**Legend**

- Haul Road
- State Land

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B.Robbins  
6/2007





# Peterson Creek Timber Sale T6N, R8W, Section 16

